

LGBTQ+ Workgroup meeting minutes

April 15, 2020

Meeting Occurred Via WebEx Teleconferencing

Roll Call (6:09 PM)

Akbi Khan Yusufzai
Ara Rosenhyslop
Beau Bryant
Dr. Juls Gilliam
Eduardo Luiggi
Faye Liberatore
Jamila Ratliff
Janssen Evelyn
Jumel Howard
Kimberly Pruim
Max Crownover
Robert Ford
Trent Hall
Tsega Girma
Vanita Leatherwood
Ying Matties

***** This was the workgroups first virtual meeting in accordance with social distancing guidelines. As a result, there were a couple of technical issues that hindered the fluidity of the meeting*****

Vision: To create an open and transparent forum/space for community to inform/effect the direction and focus of the LGBTQ+ workgroup. The intention is for the LGBTQ+ workgroup to work as a conduit for resources and a support system on behalf of the LGBTQ+ communities' interests.

Mission: To educate and inform all Howard County citizens on genuine and authentic ways to honor the dignity of citizens that reside within the LGBTQ+ community. The intention is to identify and inform tangible policy changes that will make Howard County a more inclusive, safe, and welcoming space for the LGBTQ+ community.

Purpose: To correct cultural hiccups that undermine the dignity of the LGBTQ+ community by increasing visibility, resources, and supports. The intention is to affirm and validate the realities and needs of individuals that reside in the LGBTQ+ community.

Outcomes

The following information is a representation of the outcomes/tangible activities that the work group identified.

Supports:

- *Creation and Support of LGBTQ+ employee groups within different county agencies and institutions.*
- *Support existing Ally training models created and maintained by community groups and organizations within Howard County that support LGBTQ+ interests.*
- *Identify the difference in needs and supports intergenerationally.*
- *Support and advertise existing LGBTQ+ events and endeavors within the county*
- *Partnering with and finding ways to support the Office of Human Trafficking.*

Activities/Events:

- *Symposium focused on relevant and current issues that affect the LGBTQ+ communities.*
- *Specific events focus on transgender education.*
- *Co-Sponsoring the SAGE table dinner and discussion.*
- *Create spaces for human libraries specifically focused on individuals that identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community.*
- *Creation of meet and greet/safe space for transgender individuals to connect and validate lived experience.*
- *Talk nights: conversations, facilitated dialogue, or story sharing that provide opportunities for community members to genuinely connect around lived experience providing natural paths for support and establishing authentic allies.*

- *Supporting comprehensive and realistic sexual education as it applies to all individuals regardless of sexual preference, sex, or perceived gender.*

Training/Presentations/Education:

- *Develop educational presentations for community organizations within the county. Presentations will be held in alignment with the organizations meeting schedule to ensuring that we meet community members where they are at.*
- *Providing specifics in report format to department heads to ensure that all Howard county programs, services, activities, and events honor the humanity of those within the LGBTQ+ community.*
 - *Departments within Howard County Government that readily interact with the community are priority: HCPD, Dept. of Aging, Recs & Parks, DCRS, Corrections*
 - *Departments and organizations outside of Howard County Government that frequently interact with the community are also priority, however the workgroup recognizes that we have significantly less power/pull when it comes to them: HCC, HCLS, MVA, HCPSS, Columbia Association.*
- *Create a report that educates and informs the public of relevant information as it pertains to the wellbeing and betterment of citizens within the LGBTQ+ community.*
 - *Report should include assessment of current realities connected to LGBTQ+ individuals in Howard County.*
 - *Report should provide calls to action that positively impact the lives of those that identify within the LGBTQ+ spectrum.*
 - *Report should be informed by qualitative and quantitative data and analysis.*

Established Committees

- ***Policy Committee:*** discussion for this centered around having a committee that focuses on identifying and seeking to change policy that undermines the LGBTQ+ community.
 - *Jumel Howard (work group member) – Has a desire to Lead Policy Committee - howard.jumel@pflaghoco.org*
- ***COVID Committee (Special committee):*** discussion focused on identifying and providing supports around COVID issues that may uniquely affect the LGBTQ+ community.
 - *Juls Gilliam (work group member) – Has a desire to Lead COVID committee – docjulsgilliam@icloud.com*
- ***Education(youth) Committee:*** this discussion centered around having a committee that focused on youth engagement and effective forms of education.
 - *Suzi Gerb (community member): Wants to be a member of this committee - seeallsides22425@gmail.com*
- ***Training/events/Activities Committee:*** this discussion centered around having a committee that focuses on the supporting exiting training/events/activities as well as the creation of trainings/events/activities that are needed but not present within the county.
 - *Faye Liberatore (Work group member) – Has a desire to Lead T.E.A Committee - fmliberatore@gmail.com*